



# HEADS YOU WIN, TONY!



# THE CHAMPIONS!

## Superb Wanderers storm to third title in four years

[illegible]

"WE are the champions!" That's the cry that echoed around Loakes Park at 4.45 p.m. on Saturday when scores of jubilant fans invaded the pitch to salute their team. Wycombe Wanderers had just won the first ever Rothmans Isthmian League title — and they did it with a superb display of attacking football.

played some wonderful football of a standard matching Third and Fourth Division soccer of the Football League — and sometimes better. Added to that, they have conceded only one booking (for shirt pulling) this term — a tribute to their clean football.

the first three minutes when they created three chances, there looked only one winner.

Keith Searle was wide after just 60 seconds, then Tony Horsemann couldn't get his full power behind a shot a minute later. After three minutes Roger Grant tricked Les Tilley on the flank but Searle was just unable to reach his cross. It augured

## EARP Wycombe

chance from Pritchard, things were beginning to look ominous for Wycombe. Leytonstone's defence was often stripped naked by the passing skills of the home side — and yet the numerous attacks weren't producing goals.

Then, with 26 minutes gone, Wycombe's pressure was rewarded. Once again, the

## Wanderers 3,

area just three times — an example of the Blues' overall supremacy.

However, when Horseman headed straight at Murphy from a couple of yards following a Reardon free kick and Holfield's 44th minute effort was kicked off the line by Tilley, Wycombe had only the one goal to show for all their efforts in the

**Leytonstone 0**

minutes before they really began to click again.

Almost inevitably it was Hollifield who regained the initiative. Picking up the ball on half way he set off on a run, beat three defenders one after another before being robbed by Chappell at the expense of a corner. From Horseman's flag kick Bullock blazed the ball over the top on the volley.

Soon afterwards Searle completely misjudged a header and

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**By STUART EARP Wycombe Wanderers 3, Leytonstone 0**

But there is more to it than that. One must not forget the Wycombe fans — surely the best in the country. Two thousand turned out to cheer on the Blues, and the sight of the flag flying over the ground considering the England-Scotland international was being screened on television was a sight to see and scarves waving, they played a key part in Wycombe's success. The Blues were in the lead throughout the season. The scenes after the game, with the champagne on the pitch and chairing their winning captain, will be remembered. It was the perfect end to the season.

But the moments of glory, Wycombe had to get down to the task in hand of getting back to the top. They already won 2-1 away from Luton on Wednesday, the two points leading already to the top. Leytonstone changing the goalkeepers was a factor.

In the past, Wycombe have struggled in these "all or nothing" cup games. In the first cup game, for one, expected the Blues to show some kind of spirit. But they did not. They rather hurriedly finished, their football was even better than

well for Wycombe.

Lyteystone just hadn't had the chance to settle when the Wanders stormed forward and the two centrals met in the middle. The ball passed between the two centrals and then to the left. The left half passed back but "Bodger," not wanting to risk a shot on his left foot, passed it to the right half. The ball just past the far post.

At this stage, Wanders were leading 1-0. Larry Laidlaw and Terry Reardon were combining superbly in the middle and the Wanders were looking for the front runners. The passing was executed with rare efficiency. Some Wolves players were powerless to halt it. But there was still the nagging feeling that the Wolves were not at Wycombe might not be able to finish off their excellent raids.

At the 17th minute, the visitors rescue in the 17th minute. Horseman's corner was taken by the Wolves. A defender who crossed again into the box. Keith Mead rose head and chest to head the ball into the goal in a header but the ball struck the bar and was cleared for another flag kick.

When Horseman, who at this time was 25 years old, ballooned the ball over the crossbar from six yards after the goal.

Stones paid the price for their defence. The ball came out of the Wycombe back four to Tony sent a slide-rule pass through the middle but at first, it was not clear if it was to deal with the attack. But he was not. The ball was in the hands of Mick Hollifield, who nipped in, robbed the intercepting defender and sent Murphy come out, clipped the ball over his head.

It was a surprise for the visitors. Three minutes later another fine move ended with a shot from the left wing. Leaving their flanks badly exposed while the speed of the Wycombe attack was threatening through the middle, they were constantly on the edge of disaster. In the first half, Wycombe made three raids by occasionally using the speed of the attack to break mainly played along the ground. Passing accuracy and intelligent running off the ball was the key to some of their best football of the season in the first half.

Stones' defence was not a man for the big occasion, was not troubled until the 36th minute when he was hit by a high cross from Bobby Hames. In the first half Lestonstone had

first half. At half time people were justifiably asking: "Why?"

If Wanderers could continue their first half barrage the answer would be obvious. But inevitably, however, they went to sleep in the second half. The pace of their game on a humid day in the second half was reminiscent of John Charles into mid-field and Chappell into the back line. The Wanderers ought to have had any number of chances. In fact, they had. If Leytonstone were to now win the game, it would be because of the most of their chance. In the first minute after the break Paul Williams was sent flying over the crossbar to give Brian Harvey a free cross on the left. The Wanderers were unable to knock the ball home and it sailed right across the air and into the arms of the goalkeeper.

The closest the Stones came to an equaliser was in the 52nd minute. Harvey again crossed from the left and Charles darting in at the far post, managed to get a touch which was deflected away.

Wycombe fans were getting a little sick of the Wanderers' first half but they were still playing in the second half. The ball was being passed in the

wide when well placed. In the 74th minute, however, skipper Pritchard was quick to tell his strikers how it should be done by starting and finishing a superb strike from the edge of the box. The ball to Birdseye was slipped past the keeper by the fast-footed Horseman. Collecting the return pass, Pritchard flighted a shot over the bar. It was Searle who turned and centred again. Pritchard, far from finished with his attack, sent the ball more powerfully towards the top corner. Murphy, who had pulled off a brilliant freekick, told the player on Wednesday, could only hope that the ball on its way or otherwise would find the net.

That was it. Leytonstone's little chance of pulling back two goals and the pressure was now all on the shoulders of their reinforcement midfield, Brian Lee. Replaced Perrin with Phil Woodhead, he was able to keep the halfback Holfield operated between the middle and front three.

In the 86th minute, Pritchard should notch the final goal in the 86th minute. Birdseye, who had been at right-back, took a long throw which fell straight into the hands of the forward. He headed into the sixth yard box but Horseman at the near post, who had been standing close to the blocked on the line but there was

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